

REMARKS

As agreed in the Examiner Interview of Dec. 28, 2007 and followed up on Jan. 7, 2008, these Amendments should put the Application into condition for allowance and are thus enterable after final. The subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 have been included into independent claim 1, the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 into claim 9, and the subject matter of claims 17 and 18 into claim 15. Because claims 5, 13 and 19 describe alternatives approaches to claims 4, 12 and 18, respectively, which are now included into the corresponding independent claims, they have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6 and 20 have been amended to remove references to "step(s)." These changes are merely to remove unnecessary terms or clear up issues with antecedent basis and do not change the scope of the claims.

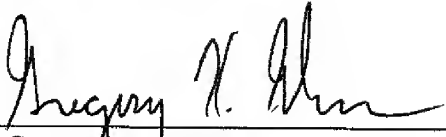
Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 14-16 and 20 are still pending in the above-identified application. Applicants submit that these amendments and remarks overcome all of the Examiner's outstanding rejections and bring the present Application into condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and a notice of allowance of all claims are therefore respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and earnestly solicits notice thereof. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the unamended claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications. It is believed that no fees are due with the filing of this Amendment/Response. However, should any other fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to the deposit account of IBM Corporation, Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,

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